

Mr. PEPYS

To the Right Honourable Sir Francis
Child, Kt. Lord Mayor, and to
the Court of Aldermen, up-
on the Present State of
CHRIST-HOSPITAL

My Lord and Gentlemen,

THAT nothing may rest ~~uncommunicated~~ to this Court, of what goes from me to that of ~~Opposition~~; any more than, by your Allowance, I with-hold from Them ought of what I offer You; I here tender you a Copy of a Letter of mine, thirteenth of the 25. of January.

The *Contents* of which bearing my *Forward* to *Thomas* as with all respect
my purpose is in this to *You*; I cannot but recommend the *Persuasion* there-
of to this *Court*, as carrying with them such a *Representation* of the pro-
-*gressing State* of that *House*, in some *fresh* Particulars essential to the *Well-*
being of it, as reader it a thing little less than *hopeless* for me (by
ordinary Means, at least) any longer to think of *saving* it: After finding
my self put to above *seven Months Labour*, in compassing only
its *Treasurer's Signature* that one *Article* of his *Accounts*, which you had
before had from him *Unsign'd*; and more than *ten*, in finding *Passage* only,
through this *Court* thither, to my late *Report* of the *State* of the same.

And what it is that may be lookt-for from it, even now, it is here, with a Committee of few less than forty, and of them the Majority such, as will find little Work for them in it, but *Self-Arrangement*; I submit to your Lordship and this Court.

Especially, when you shall be pleas'd to reflect upon the present Circumstances of that House's Government; viz.

UNDER the Guidance of a ~~President~~, equal indeed to the worthiest of his Predecessors, both in his general *Virtues*, and special *Munificence* to that Place. But One, whose Piety has out-liv'd his Strength for being otherwise personally aidful to it, in any of the Weightier Duties of that Charge.

UNDER a ~~Traitor~~, who (besides what you have elsewhere before you concerning him) was also pleas'd to declare himself ~~unable~~ both in *Mind* and *Body*, for the longer Execution of his Office; and therefore made his formal *Resignation* of it, and had it as formally accepted of from him in *Court* there, above two years since.

UNDER the Direction of Gentlemen acting indeed as ~~Governours~~, and to whom as such I have for more than 23. years had the Honour of reckoning my self a *Fellow-servant*; but are said to stand reported to You at this day by your Learned Council, not to be such, nor capable of being so, without (what they have never yet had) the *Confirmation* of this Court.

And lastly, UNDER an Administration also on the part of your *Lordship* and your Honoured Brethren, so *Gentle*s, as to have suffer'd your *Orders* thither, even in Points the most important, to lye 7. Months together wholly neglected, and your *Authority* as openly renounc'd; without having yet thought fit to have ought done (within my Notice at least) in Assertion of it.

A Reflection, My Lord, as hard to be accounted-for, as in it self Grievous..

Forasmuch as, If after so uninterrupted a *Jurisdiction*, as has been always exercis'd by this Court, and with a *Submission* as constantly paid thereto from these Hospitals; If after so long a *Succession* of *Gifts* and *Bequests* to them, and those to great *Values*, in reliance upon the *Credit* and *Authority* of this Court alone for their *Security*; If after so establish'd a *Veneration* acquir'd to it, as *Guardians* of these *Foundations*, and particularly as the *Moral Fathers* of the *Orphans* of this House, when in your *Easter* and other *Solemnities*, They, as *Your Children*, bear no small part in the *Honor* of your *Processions*; And lastly, If after what in my particular I have been endeavouring herein for *Your Service*, and for the *Service* of the *Poor*; this Court shall appear to have been all this while thus *credited* and thus *obey'd*, without *Authority* at this day, under the greatest of their *Miscarriages*, to *visit* and *reform* Them; for so also your Learned Council are said to have determin'd. What must be thought of this mistake? And particularly,

How will the Pious *Credality* of our *Princely Founders* and *past Benefactors* be to be lamented; and what more to be either hop'd or wish'd for of Them, on these Terms, in time to come?

What must the *Apprehensions* now be of Those, whose *Subsistence* rests upon the *Authority* only of this Court, for the *Payments* that

that House stands charg'd with to their Use, out of the largard Benevolences of their Charitable Ancestors?

Or Theirs; whose Debts of more modern Date, lie unpaid (many Thousand Pounds deep) by that Hospital at Interest, upon no other Security?

*What is there to be rely'd on of *Fruit* from the *Retrospections* said to be now on foot there, or those lying before your Lordship and this Court, from my Report?*

*Or in a Word; What to be hop'd-for either of Satisfaction for so much of our *Damp's Stock* and *Bénéficiaire's Bonities* as has already *miscarry'd*; or of better Provision in time to come, for securing the Remainder?*

*What, I say my Lord, must the Result of all this be, and how to be answer'd-for; should this Court be so unhappy, as knowingly to permit such a foundation and its Revenue to rest one day longer, in Hands no otherwise qualify'd-for, nor better intitl'd to the Trust of it? While by a Resolution of its own, not yet 16 Months old, you have been pleas'd to declare your selves standing Gouvernours of the same, and (as such) required your being (as anciently) summon'd to every of its Courts, and accordingly have ever since been so, and now are: To the enticing Your selves (I fear) to a nearer Concernment in the Fate of it, than may have been yet sufficiently reflect'd on; and possibly, to an ~~accordance~~ *alliance* with Them, for the good or bad Events of their Management there.*

In Consideration I am the more willingly your present Remembrancer in, from the fresh Endeavours said to be now on foot there, for regaining their Old Liberty of taking-in Children, while unprovided of a Bit of Bread for those they now have, otherwise than by running into new Debt, or length'ning their Score of Interest upon the Old; Besides sacrificing the Innocence of so many fresh Infants, to the Dissoluteness of Manners now reigning, among those they are to be there mix'd with. The Evil of whole Contagion, and Pressure of which Debt, I take to be no otherwise removable, than by a total Stop to be for some time put, to the Occasions of Both.

An Expedient, that I well know will at the first hearing be thought as Impracticable, as in other Respects Extraordinary.

But the Case is Extraordinary too; and consequently, to restrain its Ready to Ordinary Methods only, is little other, than to leave it Remedy-less. Which I cannot think any Gentleman, who hath the Honour and Trust of a Gouvernor there, will contentedly fit-down with, while furnish'd with any thing to offer towards the Saving it, as (for want of better) I do this: And yet with an Opinion so far from deeming it Impracticable, as to reckon it a Work neither of Length nor Difficulty; if, in Atonement for that Misconduct of ours, by which, from the Prosperity this House was in while under the Care but of 16 Gouvernours with 500 Children, it has been brought into the Condition it now lies with 400 Gouvernours (little more or less) and but

but good Children; if (I say) in Atonement for that Misconduct, we would improve the Opportunity of this nearness in our Numbers, to the easing the Burthen at once of the Whole, by every Governor's taking to himself ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~whole~~ ^{part} ~~of~~ ^{the} Income of it entirely free to the Discharge of its Debts, doing Right to its ~~Governors~~ ^{Founders} and ~~Servants~~ ^{Gentlemen}, and then being down to the setting-out afresh, with a Bihemal clear'd, its ~~Debt~~ ^{Debt} ~~reform'd~~ ^{reform'd}, and Provision made for its future better Embark through the Whole. And this I lay with all Diference before your Lordship and this Count, as that without which, or some other ~~equi-~~ ^{equi-} valent, I must avow my Despair of ever seeing this unhappy House in the State in ought to be, and therefore would be glad, with your Concurrence and the Concurrence of the Gentlemen of that Body, to be doing my part, either in this or any other Effectual Proposition, towards it.

I am well aware, My Lord, of the Censure this Fervor of mine may expose me to, as One overpressing in a Cause, wherein Others neither less interested nor less discerning than my self, are pleas'd to shew so little of the Dissatisfaction I do; and without any surprise on ~~my~~ side at it, as well remembering how little different my own Sentiments were of it, while my Knowledge thereof (like theirs) had no other Direction, than the Information of Others. Whereas no sooner was I engag'd in the closer and more deliberate Enquiries apply'd thereto of my own, but that Indifference of mine was awaken'd to the Degree of Concernment I now profess; and which, on like Conviction, would be no less in any other, whose ~~zealots~~ (like mine) know no infinite in matters of Truth at least, between scrupulously Just, and down-right the contrary. Or to speak more plainly; between mixing my own Hand in the Ruin of this Religious House, and sitting silently within View of its being brought about, by the Vanitie, Supineness, Prodigality, or Self-interest of Others.

Indulge me therefore, *My Lord*, the Liberty of this *One* only closing
Note to Your *Lordship* upon this *Subject*. Namely, That as the
Direction of the *Hospitals*, has in all times hitherto been undeniably
assumed by your Honourable *Predecessors*, in this *Place*; and as un-
interruptedly *submitted* to. So is it no less evident, that however an
Occasion has now (after *sevenscore years Practice*) been administered
to the *questioning* it; Your said *Predecessors*, (*the Lord Mayor,*
Community, and *Citizens of London*) upon *Covenants* first by
Them entered-into with *King Edward VI.* for the good *Government* of
Them, were by his special *Charter* of *Incorporation* as *Gobernours*
thereof, furnished with all the *Powers* requisite to the enabling them to
make good those Covenants.

In consideration of which, and in Duty to Your Lordship, to the City, to this Court, and to the Poor, I cannot (as a Servant to all) but most earnestly pray; that this Matter may without delay, be laid for Remedy before that Body Corporate, where-ever it now rests; in order to the preventing, if possible, any unnecessary recourse to Methods Extraordinary, for what should be thought attainable by Ordinary. Especially

cially while, Siting a Parliament, with so many of your own Number, and of the Hospital's, members therein; and with a Bill already (Take it) before Them, relating to Charitable Alms; no reasonable Supplement ought to be doubted from it, to that Ordinary Point: If any such can be judg'd wanting, after so illustrious a Proof, as I have sometime since given you, of the issue of his Lordship's present Law-Chancery Proceeding in the late Memorable Case of St. Bartholomew's Prebendaries, I cannot but remind you of; as well as of the Check put but few years before at the Great Seal, to a Visitation then offered-at, in a Method less regular, in the Case of St. Thomas's.

To conclude, My Lord, this Calamity of ours in our Hospital-concernment is a Spot not to be cover'd in our Feasts of Charity, once the Glory of this City. And a Spot not at the worst neither, but daily spreading, and daily deepening too, through every part of it. Witness its Appearance (where least to have been lookt-for) in the very last act of our Treasurer's signing this Account; as giving you therein, his own Hand in Evidence against the Truth of what you had had before from him Unsign'd; and in which, as in all other its former Editions, to my self, to the Hospital, and from thence to the Lords of the Treasury, there had been suppress'd in the single Article of Sea Villages, a Sum no less than 1400 l. besides others of greater Moment yet behind. And this too, notwithstanding repeated Cautions to them concerning it; and particularly in my last, whereof this brings you a Copy. And since which (as fresh at it is) they have nevertheless adventur'd to ask, and actually received more than 700 l. upon that very Head on which the Treasurer has so lately own'd his having twice that Sum of the King's in his Hand, yet to be accounted-for.

Be pleased therefore to think of some speedy Prevention to the Growth of this our Reproach. And towards it, permit me only to say; That as uneasy as the Undertaking may appear to others; I see no Cause of apprehending any thing of more difficulty needful towards it (whether as to the due animadverting upon what is past, or better providing for what is to come) than a Right Choice of a very few Hands to be assign'd thereto, supported with an Authority faiſed to the Work, and Powers requisite to the rendring their Labours and Determinations there-in Effectual.

Which being adjusted, and that only; I should with great assurance of success, both readily and gladly pay the utmost of my personal Service to the Gentlemen so commission'd; as well in detecting the Errors of my own Calculations (and which for the Poor's sake I could wish more, than I dare yet hope them to be) as suggesting and applying adequate Remedies, to what those Gentlemen in their happyer Enquirys may find truly needing the same.

But if after all (which God avert) it should be our Infelicity, even with the aid of that Charter, not to have wherewith of our own to help our selves herein. The Cause nevertheless is too sacred, both in it self, and as it is the King's, to be permitted to sink, while within

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the support I have so often mention'd, of his Own ~~sovereignty~~^{Wise} creation; And more particularly in what relates to *Himself* within our Country in the ~~spiritual~~^{spiritual} foundation: by translating it, from the *Hand* in which it now languishes, to those he is pleased to intrust with ~~the~~ of his Own later creation, to the same Royal Purpose in the ~~management~~^{management} of Religion, within his Own Palace and Inspection.

I am in most respectful manner,
My Lord and Gentlemen,
Your ever most faithful and obedient Servant,
S. Pepys.

S. Pepys.

have caused no edema; it (polyuria) is normal and
is due up to the polyuria syndrome. It is
not modifiable, but it disappears when the disease
activity slows down or becomes static. It is a normal
physiological phenomenon.